

Message Text

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22-11

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5336

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4668

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY

SUBJ: DATA ON HOST COUNTRY LAW AND POLICY CONCERNING
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

REF: A. STATE 251824; B. STATE A-7676

1. SYRIA'S POSITION TOWARD INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM EXHIBITS
GENERALLY SHARP DIVERGENCE BETWEEN PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF SUP-
PORT FOR PALESTINIAN GUERILLA ACTIVITIES DIRECTED AGAINST
ISRAEL AND PRIVATE RESTRICTIONS WHICH SARG IMPOSES ON ANY
OPERATION WHICH MIGHT EFFECT OR EMBRARRASS PERCEIVED SYRIAN
INTERESTS. FOLLOWING HAFEZ ASAD'S ASSUMPTION OF POWER IN
1970, SARG REPLACED LEADERSHIP OF SAIQA ORGANIZATION WITH
PALESTINIAN BAATHIS WHO WOULD BE MORE PLIANT TO SARG DIRECTION
WHEN CONFRONTED WITH CHOICE BETWEEN SYRIAN OR PALESTINIAN
INTERESTS. EVEN THOUGH SYRIA NOW EXERCISES CONSIDERABLE
DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER SAIQA, IT REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE ANY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR OR INVOLVEMENT IN SAIQA ATTEMPT AGAINST
TRAIN IN HOLLAND SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

2. FOLLOWING 1974 DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD BETWEEN SYRIA AND
ISRAEL, SARG CLAMPED TIGHT PROHIBITION ON USE OF GOLAN HEIGHTS
AS JUMPING-OFF POINT FOR PALESTINIAN COMMANDO OPERATIONS

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DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL. SARG HAS DENIED ANY INVOLVEMENT IN

OCT 28 OPERATION WHEN COMMANDO TEAM DISCOVERED BY ISRAELIS CONFESSED THAT IT HAD ENTERED ISRAEL ACROSS GOLAN WITH KNOWLEDGE AND ASSISTANCE OF SARG. DURING LEBANESE CRISIS SYRIA HAS ATTEMPTED TO USE ITS WEAPONS SUPPLIES TO FEDAYEEN AND LEFTIST ELEMENTS AS LEVER TO ENFORCE ADHERENCE TO CEASE-FIRES NEGOTIATED WITH AID OF PRESIDENT ASAD, FONMIN KHADDAM AND COS SHIHABI.

3. IN RECENT CASES WHEN INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO KIDNAPPINGS BY TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN LEBANON AND ETHIOPIA SYRIA HAS READILY OFFERED ITS ASSISTANCE TO HELP LOCATE AND SECURE THEIR RELEASE.

4. SYRIAN SECURITY SERVICES EXPENDED MUCH EFFORT TO BREAK UP ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION, A LARGELY TERRORIST GROUP WHICH OVER PAST YEAR PLANTED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES AT BUILDING SELECTED BY USIS, AT AMERICAN PAVILION OF DAMASCUS FAIR, AT EGYPTIAN AND JORDANIAN EMBASSIES AND AT BAATH PARTY AND SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICES. IT LOCATED DAMASCUS CELLS OF ACO IN SUMMER 1975 AND FOLLOWING TRIAL BY STATE SECURITY COURT EXECUTED SOME AND IMPRISONED REMAINDER FOR LONG SENTENCES. INFORMATION PERTAINING TO ACO OPERATIONS OUTSIDE SYRIA WAS REPEATEDLY TRANSMITTED TO RELEVANT AUTHORITIES IN LEBANON, KUWAIT AND ABU DHABI. WE BELIVE THAT ANY OTHER INTERNAL TERRORIST INCIDENT WOULD BE HANDLED IN SAME WAY, BY STATE SECURITY COURT RATHER THAN NORMAL JUDICIAL ORGANS.

5. THERE IS SOME INFORMATION AVAILABLE THAT AS RESULT OF INCREASING SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RAPPORT SARG HAS PUT RESTRICTIONS ON PALESTINIAN FORAYS INTO JORDANIAN TERRITORY.

6. WHEN A WEST GERMAN POLITICIAN WAS KIDNAPPED IN SPRING 1975 AND FLOWN OUT OF GERMANY TOWARD MIDDLE EAST, SYRIANS REFUSED TO PERMIT AIRCRAFT TO LAND AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT. PELLETREAU

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